## **LaBrae Local Schools**



1001 North Leavitt Road Leavittsburg, Ohio 44430 Phone: 330.898.1393

Fax: 330.898.6112 https://labrae.school

## Home of the Vikings!

## For Immediate Release

Contact: Anthony J. Calderone, Superintendent

Phone: 330.898.1393

Email: aj.calderone@labrae.school

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## LaBrae Local School District Inducts New Hall of Fame Honorees Nine New Inductees into Reconstituted Hall of Fame

(Leavittsburg, Ohio) — LaBrae Local Schools is honoring nine new inductees into the new LaBrae Schools Hall of Fame. The new hall of fame is a product of expansion and reconfiguration and is now under the auspices of LaBrae Schools. Since 2009, LaBrae's Hall of Fame was designated solely for distinguished alumni. The LaBrae Alumni Hall of Fame is now under the direction of LaBrae Local Schools and has been expanded to included inductees who were exemplary student-athletes or significant community contributors, as well as distinguished alumni. 2020 marks the first year of a combined hall of fame for LaBrae. LaBrae's 2020 Inductees are as follows:

Lisa Aldridge, a 1980 LaBrae graduate, was a standout student-athlete. She earned eight varsity letters in basketball and softball. Lisa gained most of her notoriety for her exploits on the basketball floor. She is the career leading scorer for the Lady Vikings, and she holds several other basketball records. Lisa was selected as the Trumbull County Player of the Year during her junior and senior seasons, and she earned All-Ohio honors for her success during her senior year. Aldridge is also a 2013 inductee into the Trumbull County Sports Hall of Fame.

James Brewster, a 1959 Braceville High School graduate, earned 12 varsity letters during his high school career. Brewster excelled in basketball, baseball and track & field. Brewster scored 1,538 points on the hardwood, and he was an integral member of Braceville's four straight TIA Track & Field Championship teams and the 1957 Ohio State Championship team. Brewster was a pitcher for the Braceville baseball team, and his success helped lead them to two TIA championships.

Denny Frederick, a 1972 graduate of LaBrae H.S., is a long time resident of the community who has served his community as an educator, a coach, and a volunteer. In addition to being an accomplished student-athlete at LaBrae, Frederick has had a tremendous impact on the students of LaBrae. His dedication is seen in his exemplary service through the years to LaBrae youth through the LaBrae Athletic Club, community fundraisers, and community projects. Frederick served as a varsity basketball coach for LaBrae, most notably as the girls head coach where he guided the Lady Vikings of 1987 to the most successful girls' season in school history, a regional champion and Final Four qualifier. Frederick was inducted into the Warren Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.

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Gary Glaze, a 1955 Leavittsburg High School graduate, matriculated to Youngstown State University following high school to pursue a music degree, and he earned his Master's in music from the University of Michigan. From there, he embarked on a professional operatic singing career as a tenor. Glaze had a successful and extensive singing career that included performing for the New York City Opera, and routinely performing at the Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center for the Arts in Washington D.C. Along the way, Glaze also served as a vocal instructor at multiple colleges and universities, eventually ending his teaching career as a professor of vocal instruction at the University of Southern California.

Al Lopez, a posthumous inductee, was a longtime Braceville resident who served as a teacher, coach, and school administrator. Lopez was an icon of the community he served admirably. After leaving the classroom, Lopez went on to serve as a principal at Braceville and LaBrae before serving as the district superintendent for 12 years until his retirement in 1987. Lopez was an active leader in the OHSAA, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, with over 50 years of service on the Ohio N.E. Athletic Board, and he held a variety of leadership positions during his tenure. In 2013, Lopez was honored as an inductee in the Trumbull County Sports Hall of Fame.

Todd Rowe, a 1988 LaBrae High School graduate, earned nine varsity letters in golf, basketball, and baseball. Rowe's athletic forte was on the hardwood. He was a 1,000 point scorer for LaBrae, and earned Trumbull County Player of the Year honors his senior season. Rowe earned 1<sup>st</sup> Team TAC 8 honors his senior year as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Ohio. He was a North-South All Star selection in 1988. Additionally, Rowe excelled at the collegiate level as a two time All-American for Malone University and holds 13 individual scoring records, including points scored in a career. Rowe parlayed his basketball success into a successful professional basketball career in S.E. Asia from 1994-2001.

Larry Seafert, a 1965 Braceville High School graduate, was a prolific scorer as a high school player earning many post-season honors, including All-Ohio. Seafert earned a full ride basketball scholarship to West Virginia University. In addition to playing basketball at WVU, Seafert also played baseball, earning two varsity letters as a Mountaineer. Seafert became an educator who instructed and coached at Brookfield Local Schools before returning to his roots to teach and coach at LaBrae. During his coaching career, teams under Seafert's tutelage won many championships and helped him compile a coaching record of 224-112. Seafert was honored as the Trumbull County Coach of the Year on five occasions. In 2013, Seafert was honored with induction into the Trumbull County Sports Hall of Fame.

Ralph Stringer, a 1973 graduate of LaBrae High School, was a three sport star during his high school career garnering local and state honors in football, track & field, and basketball on his way to earning eight varsity letters. Following graduation, Stringer matriculated to North Carolina State on a football scholarship where he played for Lou Holtz. He was a 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-ACC selection and an All-American in his senior season. Following his collegiate football career, Stringer began a journey as a marketing agent, a career that he still excels at today. During his distinguished career Stringer has created many long term relationships and represents many notable clients, of which Dan Marino, Jason Taylor, Moses Malone, and Dwight Stephenson are included.

Walter Toles, a 1958 Braceville High School graduate, was a stellar athlete earning eight varsity letters in baseball, basketball, and track. Toles was the premier sprinter in Trumbull County during his high school days. In his junior year at the Ohio State High School Championships, he won both the 220 and 440 yard dash, and he finished second in the 100 yard dash. As a senior, he was a state champion in three events as he captured top honors in the 100, 220 and 440-yard dashes. Toles also placed fourth in the long jump and was selected Most Valuable Player of the Ohio Track & Field Championships. He became the first track athlete to win three state championships in one year since legendary Olympian, and Ohio State University star, Jesse Owens did it in 1933.

He compiled five total individual state titles in two years. Toles helped lead Braceville to three TIA Track titles, and he was honored as Trumbull's Outstanding Athlete during his senior year.

In addition to the newly reconfigured LaBrae Hall of Fame, LaBrae Schools have finished installing a new Hall of Fame display. The display is located adjacent to the high school gym and it is a combination of an interactive digital display and a physical wall display listing the induction classes dating back to the original 2009 induction. The interactive multimedia content will sync to the LaBrae Schools' website. The reconfigured Hall of Fame, and the new inductees, were originally to be a component of LaBrae's 50<sup>Th</sup> Anniversary celebration this school year. However, due to the global pandemic, and keeping with the physical distancing guidelines, LaBrae was unable to honor the inductees in person this winter, but plans for an induction ceremony are being considered for next year.

(The image below represents the new display.)

